

HOUSE BILL NO. 603

INTRODUCED BY V. SMALL-EASTMAN

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY LITERACY
5 PROGRAM; PROVIDING LITERACY LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND
6 PARENTS BELOW 150 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL WITH STATE GENERAL FUND
7 MONEY; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PRIORITIZE
8 FUNDING FOR AREAS WITH SCHOOLS IDENTIFIED FOR RESTRUCTURING AND TO PROVIDE
9 INTERACTIVE, INTERGENERATIONAL LITERACY ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND
10 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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14 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Community-based family literacy program.** (1) There is a state-funded
15 community-based family literacy program. The program is intended to provide literacy programs to children and
16 parents below 150% of the federal poverty level.

17 (2) The department shall provide funding to new or existing programs through a request for proposals
18 with a priority to fund programs in communities with schools identified for restructuring under the No Child Left
19 Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. 6316(b)(8). The department shall establish performance standards to be used in
20 the awarding of grants to schools or community-based organizations applying for funds from the state-funded
21 community-based family literacy program.

22 (3) In order to be eligible for funding, a program:

23 (a) must offer half-day or full-day services appropriate to a child's developmental level through
24 educationally relevant programs;

25 (b) must provide interactive and intergenerational literacy activities in which parents or legal guardians
26 actively participate in facilitating the acquisition of prereading skills by their children through home visits and group
27 activities that focus on shared reading, learning the alphabet, basic vocabulary development, and other culturally
28 appropriate family learning activities that foster language and reading development; and

29 (c) may not be sectarian in purpose.
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